

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as indicated below. The following complete list of claims replaces all earlier versions of the claims in this application.

Claims 1-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) A Raman amplifier comprising at least one optical fiber and at least one pump laser, optically coupled to said optical fiber, said pump laser being adapted for emitting a pump radiation at a wavelength  $\lambda_p$ , wherein said optical fiber comprises a tellurite glass suitable for enhancing Raman effect, said glass comprising:

from 50% to 90% in mole percentage of  $\text{TeO}_2$ ;

from ~~[[5]]10%~~ to ~~[[45]]25%~~ in mole percentage of a first metal oxide of an element selected from the group of Nb, W, Ti, Tl, Ta, and Mo; and

from 5% to 30% in mole percentage of a second different metal oxide of an element selected from the group of Nb, W, Ti, Pb, Sb, In, Bi, Tl, Ta, Mo, Zr, Hf, Cd, Gd, La, and Ba.

30. (Previously Presented) The Raman amplifier according to claim 29, wherein the mole percentage of  $\text{TeO}_2$  in said glass is from 65% to 85%.

31-32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously Presented) The Raman amplifier according to claim 29, wherein the mole percentage of said second metal oxide is from 5% to 20%.

34. (Previously Presented) The Raman amplifier according to claim 29, wherein said tellurite glass further comprises an oxide of a metal selected from the group of Y, Sc, Al, Ga, Ge, P, Li, Na, K, Rb, Cs, Mg, Ca, Sr, Be, B, and Zn.

35. (Previously Presented) The Raman amplifier according to claim 29, wherein said first oxide is an oxide of an element selected from the group of Nb, W and Ti.

36. (Previously Presented) The Raman amplifier according to claim 29, wherein said second oxide is an oxide of an element selected from the group of Nb, W and Ti.

37. (Previously Presented) The Raman amplifier according to claim 35, wherein said second oxide is an oxide of an element selected from the group of Nb, W and Ti.

38. (Currently Amended) The Raman amplifier according to claim 29, wherein said tellurite glass comprises from 50% to 90% in mole percentage of TeO<sub>2</sub>, from ~~[[5]]~~10% to ~~[[30]]~~25% in mole percentage of niobium oxide and from 5% to 30% in mole percentage of tungsten oxide.

39. (Currently Amended) A Raman amplifier comprising at least one optical fiber and at least one pump laser, optically coupled to said optical fiber, said pump laser being adapted for emitting a pump radiation at a wavelength  $\lambda_p$ , said optical fiber comprising a tellurite glass suitable for enhancing Raman effect, said glass comprising:  
from 55% to 95% in mole percentage of TeO<sub>2</sub>; and

from ~~[[5]]~~10% to ~~[[45]]~~25% in mole percentage of a metal oxide of an element selected from the group of Nb, Ti, Ta, and Mo.

40. (Previously Presented) The Raman amplifier according to claim 39, wherein said tellurite glass comprises from 65% to 95% in mole percentage of TeO<sub>2</sub>.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Currently Amended) An optical telecommunication link including an optical fiber path for transmitting an optical signal and at least a Raman amplifier optically coupled along said optical fiber path, said Raman amplifier comprising at least one optical fiber and at least one pump laser, optically coupled to said optical fiber, said pump laser being adapted for emitting a pump radiation at a wavelength  $\lambda_p$ , wherein said optical fiber comprises a tellurite glass suitable for enhancing Raman effect, said glass comprising:

from 50% to 90% in mole percentage of TeO<sub>2</sub>;

from ~~[[5]]~~10% to ~~[[45]]~~25% in mole percentage of a first metal oxide of an element selected from the group of Nb, W, Ti, Ta, and Mo; and

from 5% to 30% in mole percentage of a second different metal oxide of an element selected from the group of Nb, W, Ti, Pb, Sb, In, Bi, Ta, Mo, Zr, Hf, Cd, Gd, La, and Ba.

43. (Currently Amended) An optical telecommunication link including an optical fiber path for transmitting an optical signal and at least a Raman amplifier optically coupled along said optical fiber path, said Raman amplifier comprising at least

one optical fiber and at least one pump laser, optically coupled to said optical fiber, said pump laser being adapted for emitting a pump radiation at a wavelength  $\lambda_p$ , said optical fiber comprising a tellurite glass suitable for enhancing Raman effect, said glass comprising:

from 55% to 95% in mole percentage of  $\text{TeO}_2$ ; and

from ~~[[5]]~~10% to ~~[[45]]~~25% in mole percentage of metal oxide of an element selected from the group of Nb, Ti, Tl, Ta, and Mo.

44-59. (Cancelled)

60. (New) A Raman amplifier comprising at least one optical fiber and at least one pump laser, optically coupled to said optical fiber, said pump laser being adapted for emitting a pump radiation at a wavelength  $\lambda_p$ , wherein said optical fiber comprises a tellurite glass suitable for enhancing Raman effect, said glass comprising:

from 50% to 90% in mole percentage of  $\text{TeO}_2$ ;

from 5% to 45% in mole percentage of a first metal oxide of an element selected from the group of Nb, W, Ti, Tl, Ta, and Mo; and

from 5% to 20% in mole percentage of a second different metal oxide of an element selected from the group of Nb, W, Ti, Pb, Sb, In, Bi, Tl, Ta, Mo, Zr, Hf, Cd, Gd, La, and Ba.

61. (New) The Raman amplifier according to claim 60, wherein the mole percentage of  $\text{TeO}_2$  in said glass is from 65% to 85%.

62. (New) The Raman amplifier according to claim 60, wherein said tellurite glass further comprises an oxide of a metal selected from the group of Y, Sc, Al, Ga, Ge, P, Li, Na, K, Rb, Cs, Mg, Ca, Sr, Be, B, and Zn.

63. (New) The Raman amplifier according to claim 60, wherein said first oxide is an oxide of an element selected from the group of Nb, W and Ti.

64. (New) The Raman amplifier according to claim 60, wherein said second oxide is an oxide of an element selected from the group of Nb, W and Ti.

65. (New) The Raman amplifier according to claim 63, wherein said second oxide is an oxide of an element selected from the group of Nb, W and Ti.

66. (New) The Raman amplifier according to claim 60, wherein said tellurite glass comprises from 50% to 90% in mole percentage of  $\text{TeO}_2$ , from 5% to 30% in mole percentage of niobium oxide and from 5% to 20% in mole percentage of tungsten oxide.

67. (New) An optical telecommunication link including an optical fiber path for transmitting an optical signal and at least a Raman amplifier optically coupled along said optical fiber path, said Raman amplifier comprising at least one optical fiber and at least one pump laser, optically coupled to said optical fiber, said pump laser being adapted for emitting a pump radiation at a wavelength  $\lambda_p$ , wherein said optical fiber comprises a tellurite glass suitable for enhancing Raman effect, said glass comprising:

from 50% to 90% in mole percentage of  $\text{TeO}_2$ ;

from 5% to 45% in mole percentage of a first metal oxide of an element selected from the group of Nb, W, Ti, Ta, and Mo; and

from 5% to 20% in mole percentage of a second different metal oxide of an element selected from the group of Nb, W, Ti, Pb, Sb, In, Bi, Tl, Ta, Mo, Zr, Hf, Cd, Gd, La, and Ba.